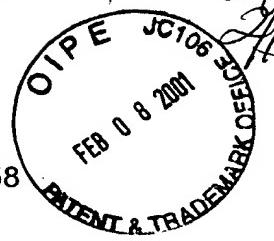


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

According to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)



APPLICANT: HARALD BERGER ET DOCKET NO: P00,0458
AL

SERIAL NO.: 09/527,140 ART UNIT: 2739

FILED: March 16, 2000 EXAMINER:

TITLE: SWITCHING DEVICE AND METHOD FOR PARALLEL CONNECTION OF SUBSCRIBER TERMINAL DEVICES

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56 and the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.98, Applicants respectfully request that a citation and examination of the references identified on the attached PTO 1449 form be made during the course of examination of the above-identified application for United States Patent.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed according to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b) and before the latter occurrence of:

- (1) three months from the filing date of a national application;
- (2) three months from the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.491 in an international application; or
- (3) the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

REMARKS

The attached PTO 1449 form lists related art references for the above identified application, including those identified in the International Search Report, copy of which is enclosed herewith.

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EXPLANATION OF RELEVANCE

References AA, AL, and AR were cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application. References AA and AR are in English, so no further commentary is required. Reference AL is an international application that is in German. An English language translation of the abstract is provided, and a full translation will be produced for the Examiner upon request.

The filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, and is not to be construed as an admission that the information cited in the present Information Disclosure Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(b).

The above citation of prior art is not a representation that such art constitutes a complete or exhaustive listing of all pertinent prior art, nor that it necessarily includes the closest or most relevant art. The aforementioned citation comprises a voluntary citation of prior art of which applicant and his attorney are presently aware and is not intended to serve as a substitute for the Examiner's own search.

Submitted by,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on February 5, 2001.



Mark Bergner Attorney for Applicants